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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/659,206	09/10/2003	Donald E. Schneider	9709A	5584

112 7590 03/16/2007
ARMSTRONG WORLD INDUSTRIES, INC.
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
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LANCASTER, PA 17604-3001

EXAMINER

CHEVALIER, ALICIA ANN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1772

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/16/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/659,206

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER ET AL.

Examiner

Alicia Chevalier

Art Unit

1772

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 34-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 34-62 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action, mailed September 22, 2006, is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.
2. Claims 34-62 are pending in the application, claims 1-33 have been cancelled.

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

3. The 35 U.S.C. §103 rejections made of record in the office action mailed September 22, 2006, pages 2-5, paragraphs #4 and #5 has been withdrawn due to Applicant's responses filed February 22, 2007.

REJECTIONS

4. **The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.**

Double Patenting

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re*

Art Unit: 1772

Vogel, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 34-62 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,649,284 in view of Valentine et al. (US Patent No. 3,376,246).

Patent No. 6,649,284 claims a textured surface covering comprising a textured substrate and a layer overlying said textured substrate. The layer comprising a melt processable composition comprising a melt processable polymer resin. The textured substrate having a textured surface, the textured surface having an area in which the difference in height of the textured surface is about 1 mil or 2 mil vertical distance over no more than about 20 mils horizontal distance. The layer having a first surface adjacent the textured surface and a second surface spaced from said textured surface and the layer conforming to the textured surface. Whereby the first and second surfaces substantially follow the contours of the textured surface; wherein said layer overlying the area has a thickness that varies less than about 20% and/or wherein the viscosity of the melt processable composition is between about 4,500 to about 70, poise at some temperature between 225 °F and 425 °F. See claims 1-19.

Patent No. 6,649,284 fails to claims that the melt processable composition comprises a melt process processing aid.

Valentine discloses a surface covering (*col. 1, lines 21-24*) made of a melt processable composition comprising a melt processable polymer resin and a melt process processing aid (*col. 2, lines 8-14*). The added plasticizers lower the melting temperature of the solid (*col. 3, lines 25-36*) and lower the viscosity of the material (*col. 6, lines 67-69*). Valentine further discloses that employing a copolymer rather than a straight polymer (*col. 1, lines 59-60*) to provide an improved material exhibiting exceptional adhesion to a variety of substrate (*col. 2, lines 8-13*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add a melt process processing aid to the melt processable polymer resin of Patent No. 6,649,284 as taught by Valentine in order to improve the adhesion of the material to various substrates.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claims 34-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. In the instant case amended claims 34, 36, 40, 42, 46 and 59 contain the limitation "a melt process processing aid." The specification does not disclose a general processing aid added to the melt processable composition, therefore this limitation is considered new matter. The

Art Unit: 1772

specification only has support for the specific "methacrylate/acrylic copolymer processing aid" page 9, lines 7-8. Therefore, since the specification does not discuss the composition of the melt processable composition anywhere else in the specification, Applicant does not have support for the broad limitation "a melt process processing aid," only support for the specific "methacrylate/acrylic copolymer processing aid."

The new matter must be deleted.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

9. Applicant's arguments in the response filed February 22, 2007 regarding the previous rejections of record have been considered but are moot due to the new grounds of rejection.

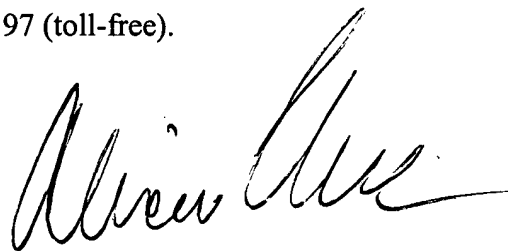
Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Chevalier whose telephone number is (571) 272-1490. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Harold Pyon, can be reached on (571) 272-1498. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ac
3/15/07



**ALICIA CHEVALIER
PRIMARY EXAMINER**